

## State Special Education Funding Systems:

States use five basic types of funding formulas that vary considerably.

**Pupil Weights:** State special education aid is allocated on a per student basis. It provides more money for students who are expected to cost more. Funding weights are differentiated on the basis of student placement, disability or some combination of the two. Seventeen states use the pupil weight funding formula; three states use a combination of approaches.

**Census-based/Flat Grant:** Funding is based on a fixed amount of funding per student. A variation to this approach is to base the count on all students in a district, rather than the number of special education students. Ten states use flat grant funding; two use a combination of approaches.

**Resource-Based:** Funding is based on an allocation of specific education resources, such as teachers or classroom units. Distribution of funds is based on payment for specified resources such as aides or equipment. Seven states use resource-based funding; one state uses a combination of approaches.

**Percent Reimbursement:** The aid a district receives is based directly on its expenditure for the program. Usually there is some basis for determining what costs are allowable and there may be overall caps on the number of students with disabilities who can be claimed for funding purposes. Six states use percent reimbursement funding; one state uses a combination of approaches.

**Variable Block Grant Allocations:** Based on base-year enrollment/average daily membership and/or revenues. Four states use a variable block grant approach; one state uses a combination of approaches.

2 states have no prescribed funding formula.